THE BIBLE TODAY

International Uniform Sunday School Lesson

By LOUIS D. NEWTON, B.D.

SCRIPTURE: Ezra 7:6-10; Nehemiah 8:9-12.
DEVOTIONAL READING: Psalms 119:9-16

Ezra Leads A Revival

Lesson for May 9, 1948

GLANCING for a moment at our history, we see that in 536 B. C., 50,000 Jews were returned to Jerusalem from Babylon, and the temple was rebuilt; and 78 years later, Ezra returns with about 7,000 Jews to inaugurate needed reforms. Then came Nehemiah, 444 B. C., to rebuild the walls, and with Ezra to lead in a needed religious revival.

Dr. Newton

* * *

HAPPY TIMES WITH THE BIBLE

"FOR Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments."

There was great need for a revival of religion, and Ezra knew that there can be no real revival until the people come back to God. He therefore read to them the statutes and judgments. Ezra read from the law of Moses from morning until midday, "and the ears of all the people were attentive unto the book of the law."

What would you think of the people being summoned into some public place today to hear the Bible read? But you say, we hear it read over the radio, and we hear it read in church, and we sometimes hear it read in the home. But do we hear it? And are our ears really attentive?

* * *

HEARING AND DOING GOD'S WORD

EZRA not only read God's word to the people, but he led them to do what they were commanded in the law. They went out to give portions to those who were in need. They came back to worship God. They began both to hear and do.

"Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only." James 1:22.

It is positively dangerous to receive impressions from God and refuse to express what he has put in our hearts to do for him. Let me put it this way, we can become religiously intoxicated unless we go forth to serve.

* * *

LIVING OUR RELIGION

WHAT Ezra and Nehemiah led the people to do in the long ago was to put into practice what they heard—to live their religion. The late Gandhi was reported to have said, "I might have embraced Christianity, had Christians lived what they professed."

Let us keep clearly in mind that Ezra was first concerned in instructing the people according to all that God had said in the Scriptures. That comes first. We must have conviction about what is right. We must have a creed, but we are to remember that it is in daily living that we make our creeds effective.

* * *

WHAT IS A RELIGIOUS REVIVAL?

THIS lesson intends to reveal to us how a religious revival broke out in Jerusalem in the long ago, nearly 500 years before Christ was born. Well may we ask, What is a religious revival?

"Lord, send a revival, and let it begin in my heart." Revivals are prayed down, not talked up. We have fallen into the fallacy of speaking of revivals when some overnight spell-binder comes along and kicks up a big sensation. Before he leaves town, Pharisaism is more rampant than ever. It is not until the Spirit of God moves upon the hearts of his people and rekindles in them a sense of sin, bringing them to true repentance, that we can have a real religious revival.

When men are convicted of their sins, they will say with Zacchaeus, "Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor, and if I have taken from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold." When men begin to feel and talk and act like that, you have a real religious revival. And I repeat, such revivals are prayed down, not talked up. Now you are ready to read Psalms 119:9-16.

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Ruined by Hate

Hate never ruined an enemy, but it has ruined the lives of many a hater.

You never fail to get your reward for Christian service, for the reason that it is its own compensation.

Discontent is the want of self-reliance; it is the infirmity of will.—Emerson.

TIMES-VIRGINIAN

IN THE HEART OF THE DARK TOBACCO BELT

APPOMATTOX, VIRGINIA

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TIMES

WITH OTHER EDITORS

OUTSTANDING PUBLIC SERVICE

(The Roanoke Times)

A Florida Congressman told the House of Representatives Wednesday that "John L. Lewis has met his match in Justice T. Alan Goldsborough" and added that "when men are picked for rendering outstanding preeminent public service, the name of Justice T. Alan Goldsborough should be placed at the top."

Many people are of the same way of thinking, unquestionably. The greatest service performed by Judge Goldsborough in the Lewis case was not in imposing heavy fines on the UMW president and the union but in demonstrating that the Federal courts cannot be swayed or intimidated from administering justice and upholding the law by considerations of "expediency."

Judge Goldsborough's review of the facts involved in the miners' walkout and the subsequent failure of Lewis and the union to obey the court's order to instruct the men to return to work, was so thorough, logical and masterful a summation as has emanated from any Federal bench in a long time and was a complete and convincing exposition of the gravity of the defendants' offense.

In short, Judge Goldsborough upheld the prestige and authority of the Government in a way that cannot fail to have enhanced public confidence in the courts in this crucial period when lawlessness is rampant and a spirit of defiance of constituted authority far too widespread. If he is not to be considered "the man of the year," who has a better claim to that title?

PERISH THE THOUGHT!

(Raleigh News and Observer)

It begins to look as if it were time that the South stopped worrying about outside "enemies" and gave some thought to sabotage at home.

The Azalea Festival at Wilmington had a "queen" from Hollywood. And the Apple Festival in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia imported a "queen" from Boston. Has the South run out of home-grown beauties? Perish the thought.

South's political revolt discounted by national leaders of Democratic Party.

Allies lift border restrictions in Trieste.

Senate urged to reduce flood control bill.

Hixburg

Hixburg, May 3.- Mr. and Mrs. Brockwell spent the week-end with her father, W. A. Swan.

Wm. E. Carson, student at the University of Virginia, spent the past week-end with hime folks.

Bruce Fisher preached a fine sermon at Hixburg Presbyterian Church Sunday A. M. It was his last sermon before he graduates at the Seminary in Richmond May 18. He, with Mrs. Fisher, expects to visit in Charleston, W. Va. and Florida before taking up his work in Pageland, S. C., June 1.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Terry and Joe, Jr., of Cumberland attended services here Sunday. They were dinner guests of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. T. Terry, of Pamplin.

Misses Patty and Emily Featherston, N. E. Featherston and Bruce Fisher were the dinner guests of S. R. Marshall, Mrs. C. B. Carson and John spent the week-end in this home.

Liberty Chapel

Liberty Chapel, May 3.- Mr. and Mrs. Joe Dunnaway and Mr. and Mrs. Singleton, of Halifax, were guests of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Reynolds recently.

Those visiting in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Thornhill Sunday were Mr. and Mrs. Don Over of Randolph; Mr. and Mrs. Noel Johnson and Miss Ruth Owen, of Wylliesburg; Mrs. Elsie Moore, of Chase City; Mrs. Lee Thornhill, Sonny Smith and Leslie Totty and son.

Rev. and Mrs. J. P. Leisner and granddaughter were the supper guests of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Thornhill Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Davidson, of Lynchburg have moved to the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Reynolds.

Mrs. Marvin Reynolds visited Mrs. Hunter Jamerson last Thursday afternoon.

We are so glad to see Mrs. Sam Coleman out again after a long illness.

State's tourist resorts expect big season.

Citation easily wins the Kentucky Derby.

British reinforcements rushed to Palestine.

Eisenhower leaves post as chief of staff.

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Oleo bill goes to Senate.

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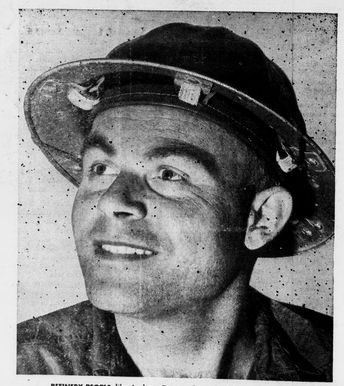

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Workers with good wage scales and steady work. Workers with retirement income assured for life. Workers with opportunities for advancement, with company training to help them get it!...

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TANK TRUCK OPERATORS, like Arthur Harbin, who travel the highways daily to keep up the flow of supplies to your neighborhood Esso Dealer.

ESSO STANDARD OIL COMPANY

Farm Topics

...e Diseases Take ...Toll of Turkeys ...reatest Loss Occurs ...ring Growing Period

...y a third of all turkeys ...d are lost during the growing ...s. This statement is based on ...gs of 16th Agricultural col...urveys.

...considerable importance to a ...l program is the fact that the ...diseases known to be the ...st killers of poults—paraty...phoid infection, pullorum disease and ...enteritis, which may be ...mitted through the egg from ...t to the offspring—cause 61 ...t of the brooder loss.

...grower starts with a healthy, ...ss poult, the job of keeping ...nd healthy is relatively simple. ...the first problem for a pros...

...rts of poult at Timmerman ..., Jefferson county, N. Y. ...shows baby turkey off to a ...start.

...e turkey producer is to buy ...d from hatcheries that have a ...ord for producing healthy ...s. As it may be impossible for ...de grower to know the poult ...s, cooperative effort may be ...d in investigating the breeder ...atcher.

...per housing and proper use ...ooding equipment are essential ...alth of the poults. Basis of ...ary procedures is to prevent ...y individuals from coming in ...ct with the infectious agents ...ersons. All weak-looking poults ...d be kept separate from the ...y fowls and strict sanitary ...tices must be maintained during ...rooding period.

...y Spraying Advised ...Black Cherry Aphid

...rays applied before the buds ..., say insect specialists, are ...consistent in controlling the ...cherry aphid than sprays ...after the buds are open.

...ding of the black cherry aphid, ...ccur in large numbers, affects ...size and flavor of the fruit. Also, ...excretion known as "honeydew" ...uses a sticky and unattractive ...ssance of the fruit, especially ...is to be sold as fresh fruit. De...opment of a sooty fungus in the ...ydew may contribute further ...he unsightly appearance of the ...ries. Sweet cherries are more ...monly infested than sour cher...

...lected Farm Forest ...med Valuable Asset

...he farm woodland is paying off. ...a long neglected group of trees ...t stands on the back "forty" and ...ch once was eyed with a resent...attitude because it occupied land ...t could far better be devoted to ...ing, now becomes a definite and ...uable asset.

...t is one that can be quickly con...ted into cash. To the owner has ...he realization that the farm ...l produce something more than ...n, root crops, pasture or dairy ...ducts. Trees also are a crop, and ...paying crop, even on the poorer ...es of soil where intensive agricul...e is an impossibility.

Modern Stock Barn

War-born quonsets have been adapted to many farm uses. Above photo shows how a Brighton, Mich., farmer utilizes a quonset. Note the improved window arrangements.

Prompt Action Required To Relieve Cattle Bloat

Removal of the gases from the rumen is the primary object in treatment of bloat in cattle. If bloating has just started, the animal should be forcibly exercised and the distended abdomen massaged or kneaded with the clenched fist to bring about belching of the gases from the stomach. A wooden gag can be placed in, and across, the mouth of the bloated animal.

Evergreen

Evergreen, May 4.- D. T. Ferguson, of Lynchburg is spending this week with his brother, A. B. Ferguson.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Conner and daughter, of Lynchburg were Sunday guests of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Conner. Mr. Conner is better after a brief illness.

Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Evans, of Charlotte Court House were supper guests last Saturday of his sister, Miss Fannie Evans.

Miss Betsy Ferguson and Miss Eulalia Glover spent the week-end with Mr. and Mrs. Eli Bird, in Lynchburg.

Miss Anna Harris, of Oakville, was the Monday night guest of Miss Betsy Ferguson.

Mrs. Sam Evans, and mother, Mrs. Jennie Johnson called to see Mrs. Eddie Warriner Saturday night. Mr. and Mrs. Jack Hodge also visited in the same home.

Mrs. Mary Sullivan and Walter Orr, of Lynchburg; Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Dickerson, of Pamplin, and Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Staples all visited Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Glover Sunday.

Mrs. Tom Evans is spending a few days in Lynchburg with her daughter, Mrs. Edd Duffman and family.

Miss Jean Calloway, of Lynchburg was the week-end guest of Miss Elnora Glover.

Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Grishaw, of Lynchburg spent the week-end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Will Garrett.

Mr. and Mrs. Warren Driskill, of Lynchburg called to see A. B. Ferguson and family Sunday night.

Mrs. Sam Anderson, of Appomattox spent Sunday with her sister, Mrs. Emma Thomas, who has been sick, but is better at this writing.

Miss Jean Calloway and Miss Elnora and Miss Bessie Ann Glover all called to see Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Glover Saturday night.

Spout Spring

Spout Spring, May 4.-Miss Clarkie Cheatham and brother, Aubrey were recent visitors in the home of Miss Jean Howerton, of Lynchburg.

Mrs. Lula Howerton and son have purchased a home at New Chapel.

Jimmie Dickerson, of Lynchburg spent Sunday with his parents.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Moon, of Richmond spent Sunday in the home of his parents.

Mr. and Mrs. William Moon and daughter, of Halifax spent Tuesday with Mr. and Mrs. W.A. Moon.

Mrs. A. C. Almond, Mrs. D. H. Cyrus and Miss Margaret Moon visited Mrs. Bessie Chilton last Thursday. She is a patient at the Lynchburg General Hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Hodges, of Lynchburg were guests of Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Moon Saturday.

REVIVAL SERVICES

Revival services begin at the Bethany Pentecostal Holiness Church on Route 1 on Sunday, April 25. The public is invited.

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